

EUROPE--POLITICS AND PERSONS

The Kaiser May Try New Election--Italy Fears Austria--Truth Tells Secrets About Former Editor.

BERLIN, Jan. 30.—Thoughtful Germans are more concerned than they are publicly admitting over the astounding position won by the Social Democracy in the Reichstag elections, which came to an end this week.

The party which the Government has pilloried throughout the campaign as the "arch enemy of the State" enters the new Reichstag with 110 members and is now the strongest individual body in Parliament. It displaces from that position the hitherto invincible Catholic Centre.

The Kaiser has summoned the new Reichstag to convene on February 7, but it would not surprise political observers if the Imperial Chancellor's first appearance in the House were to be marked by the reading of an imperial order dissolving Parliament for the purpose of making a fresh appeal to the country.

The Government, of course, even with 110 Socialists in the House, can carry on business, but the majority on which it has hitherto relied—the so-called "black and blue combination," the Conservative and Catholic Centre—is too narrow for comfort. If such a contingency as a defeat of the forthcoming bills for an increase of the army and navy should arise through the opposition of the Socialists, it is a moral certainty that the Reichstag would be dissolved and new elections ordered. Bismarck resorted to similar tactics in 1887, when Parliament declined to pass his military bills, and the result of his appeal to the country was the smashing of the hostile majority and the election of a House which ate out of the Iron Chancellor's hand.

Whether a new election will take place or not, the victory of the Social Democracy has given every sensible German "furiously to think." The facts which confront him are that one-third of the national electorate voted "Red," and that if Germany were not gerrymandered in favor of the ruling caste, there would, at this moment be an overwhelming Socialist majority in the national Parliament.

The thing which foreigners need to remember is that the immense increase in the Socialist vote does not mean that the Germans are becoming republicans in sentiment. Many thousands voted for Socialist candidates at the recent elections simply because Socialism is the one potent voice of protest which German politics offers.

The people want to reform, not to destroy the monarchy. They want to convert the modern Fatherland from a semi-autocracy into a genuinely constitutional State. They want a Parliament which is responsible to the electorate and not to the Kaiser. They want Cabinets and Governments which are created by popular will, not by imperial whim.

This is the message which the nation has just uttered at the polls. It remains to be seen whether the Kaiser and the uncompromising stalwarts who make up the governing class will learn anything from it. If they do not, subsequent elections, in the opinion of the most intelligent judges, will only increase the "red flood" until some day it will threaten to engulf the throne itself.

It is understood that the first legislation submitted to the new Reichstag will be bills creating two army corps and a third squadron of battle ships and cruisers for the "high seas fleet." The vote on these measures will provide an early test of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's Parliamentary position. Many believe that his days as Chancellor are numbered. They would certainly be numbered if a fresh appeal to the country did not result in decreasing the Socialist ranks. The Kaiser would then, beyond all doubt, send Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg into oblivion and seek a giant killer capable of slaying the Red Goliath.

It is apparent that Germany is on the threshold of momentous events.

LIKELY TO RENEW TRIPLICE.
ROME, Jan. 30.—The results of the recent visit of Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Foreign Minister, are being shown by discussions and comments concerning the renewal of the Triple Alliance treaty. This treaty has not yet been extended, but it is practically certain that it will be within the year, bringing the compact between central empires and the Italian kingdom down to 1920. The present treaty expires in 1914.

The situation of Italy in the alliance is now stronger than ever before. When Bismarck first concluded the alliance with Austria in 1879 and then attracted Italy in 1882, he sought chiefly to protect Germany from France in case the latter sought revenge for the defeat of 1870. Italy joined with the object of seeing her position and interests in the Mediterranean better protected against France.

Italy by going to Tripoli has obtained what she desired in the Mediterranean, so she no longer needs the assistance and guarantee of her allies on that side, while her interests and influence in the Adriatic and the Balkans are regulated by special agreements with Austria.

Germany, on the other hand, still needs the Triple Alliance, and for the same reason as before. Although her relations with France are not strained as they were thirty years ago, there is no doubt that the republic would not allow to pass an opportunity to get the better of her ancient rival.

Italy, however, considers it to her interests to remain in the Triple Alliance because this alliance can protect her from attack on the part of Austria, which would be quite possible were not the two countries bound by a treaty. Italy, therefore, is in the perhaps unique situation of concluding an alliance not to protect herself from an enemy, but from her ally.

LEISHMAN GUEST OF KAISER.

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—The Leishmans are busy making formal calls on German royalties and other great personages, with whom Berlin swarms at this season. They have not yet had time to start their own entertaining programme.

The Ambassador donned his court costume again this morning to join the diplomatic corps at the castle for the Kaiser's birthday celebration. Tonight Mr. and Mrs. Leishman, Secretary Laughlin, the Naval Attaché and Mrs. Niblack, and the Military Attaché and Mrs. Shartle were the Emperor's guests at the annual birthday gala performance at the opera.

Many American parties reserved tables at the Esplanade, the Adlon, the Kaiserhof and the Bristol for the evening. Dining out on the night of the Kaiser's birthday is now a fixed custom in fashionable Berlin, and almost as much hilarity prevailed as on New Year's Eve.

Miss Bessie Abbot, formerly of the Paris Grand Opera, will take up her residence in Berlin. It is understood that she may accept some engagements on the German operatic stage.

Several entertainments were given this week by German and American hosts in honor of the American pianist, Mrs. Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, who was the soloist at Monday night's Philharmonic Orchestra concert under Arthur Nikisch. Mrs. Zeisler will leave Berlin shortly for Paris and London, where she has concert engagements later in the season.

Mrs. George H. Watson, the wife of one of the American court dentists and a well-known leader in the American colony, is recovering from the effects of a serious fall from the rear platform of a street car. It was feared at first that she had suffered concussion of the brain, but her injuries, happily, proved less alarming.

One of the American newcomers at this season's court festivities is Baroness von Schleibheim, formerly Miss Mabel Clinton Paine, of Baltimore. Two other prominent figures at court functions are the Baroness Speck von Sternburg and Baroness von Ketteler, both widows of German diplomats.

TO AID HIS TITULAR CHURCH.

ROME, Jan. 27.—As was the case with Cardinal Farley, the Vatican is following with the keenest interest the preparations being made in Boston to welcome Cardinal O'Connell. There is great interest here also in the lecture Cardinal O'Connell will give on his titular Church of San Clemente. This lecture will be illustrated with about 100 slides, showing the wonderful architecture, three churches being built, one on top of another, in three different epochs, forming the present basilica.

The slides will also show the magnificent frescoes and the danger in which they stand of being injured by the water which floods the lower church. It is understood that the lecture will serve to collect a fund to assist in draining off the ever-rising water, thus contributing to a most important work in favor of the monumental church to which the name of Cardinal O'Connell is attached.

San Clemente is entrusted to the care of the Irish Dominicans, and the lantern slides were made under the direction of Father Moore prior to the church, and Father Louis Nolan, who is acting as secretary of the committee for the work of draining, and who is the author of an erudite book on the Church of St. Clemente.

TRUTH CRITICISES LABOUCHERE.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Extraordinary revelations, throwing an entirely new light on the life and character of Henry Labouchere, are published in the current issue of Truth, which he founded. They are drawn from the recollections of the present editor and

his predecessor, the late Horace Voulas, and dispose of many myths, the most important of which is the popular idea that Mr. Labouchere was the editor and moving spirit of Truth. "Legends," says the writer, "was scarce—the name for the current conception of his relations with Truth. The thing is a gigantic myth, more amazing because myths generally grow after the death of their hero, but this reached its full dimensions during his life."

"When Mr. Labouchere started Truth, he was as Horace Voulas described him, like a child with a new toy for two or three years. As the records show, he did dramatic criticism, financial articles and politics, besides letting himself loose on every other subject that came into his head; but then he found another new toy and one very much more to his taste, which lasted him virtually till the end of his life. In 1880 he was elected for Northampton."

"It was Horace Voulas who made Truth as it has been known to the public for the last twenty-five years. Mr. Labouchere's part in all the troubles and libel actions that Truth fought in the days when Mr. Voulas was editor was to come and sit beside George Lewis in court, when we got to trial, and to receive the congratulations and compliments of the press and public after the victory. The net result of it all was that Horace Voulas made one of the greatest successes in the records of journalism, and that so far as the public is concerned the whole credit of the day for many years was his."

"It was Mr. Labouchere's habit to drop in at the office of Truth on Monday or Tuesday morning and order lunch. The meal usually consisted of a chop, just warmed through, and he ate it without bread, salt, pepper, or drink of any kind. I have seen him with a chop in one hand and a cigarette in the other, pausing to crack some jokes with Mr. Voulas, who had to sit on the other side of the table while Mr. Labouchere was refreshing himself, and used to be horribly upset by the performance."

"As soon as Mr. Labouchere felt the slightest inconvenience from his teeth he had them out and set to work on them with the first implement that came handy. I have seen him probing them about with the office scissors or batting them with a ruler."

"Have you got a hammer in the office, Voulas?" he inquired one day, and the caretaker having produced one, he destroyed about £50 worth of dentist's work in a few minutes."

"People tell you some of Dickens' characters are overdrawn and impossible. There is no character in all Dickens' collection so full of apparently impossible comic extravagance as was Henry Labouchere in real life. In the nineties and onwards he used to go about London looking like a dilapidated bagman."

"It's a bit worse for wear," he once remarked half apologetically, when I was helping him into his overcoat. 'My wife won't let me go out in it, but I'm rather fond of it and I hide it from her. He, he, he, he,' and then came a Mephistophelian chuckle."

"He used to come to the office in an old jacket, which excited much interest and mirth among the junior staff, one of whom declared he could smell it coming upstairs. One day Labby arrived in a more presentable garment and complained bitterly that Mrs. Labouchere had surreptitiously captured his old jacket. A week later, to the general horror, he reappeared in it, bubbling over with glee."

"I have done her," he said to Mr. Voulas, 'I found it.' "He never said where, but I suspect he recovered it from the dust bin."

TO SHOW PARIS HOW TO LIVE.

PARIS, Jan. 30.—Mainly as a result of the outcry against the costly and unsatisfactory conditions of living in France a municipal museum of hygiene is to be opened in Paris for the purpose of teaching the public how to live healthily and at the same time economically. The museum will be divided into several sections, each directed by a well-known specialist in the particular subject dealt with.

The section of alimentary hygiene will demonstrate the proper methods of preparing and storing food, both in shops and restaurants and at home, and will also include a large laboratory for the examination of food suspected of adulteration. That of domestic hygiene will deal with house construction, lighting and heating, ventilation, and the arrangement of furniture and rooms, illustrated by model rooms and even by whole apartments. Disinfection, vaccination, tests for drinking water and first aid to the injured will have new light thrown upon them in the sickness section, and the department devoted to sociology will give object lessons in cheap dwelling, the battle against alcoholism and consumption, the care of children, clothing and physical culture. Drainage, burials, the destruction of refuse, town planning and even traveling will each be shown in connection with the latest developments of science.

Widespread interest has been shown in the new museum, and a large number of public and private societies, Government departments and the leading railway companies have helped

the municipality of Paris to make it as complete as possible. The collection will in all fill twenty-eight large galleries, while in a large hall seating 800 persons, lectures on modern hygiene will be given at regular intervals. An important library, comprising all the works in existence on the subject of the science of living, will be at the disposal of students.

DID BISMARCK HAVE

THESE CURLS?

BERLIN, January 30.—Doubt has been cast upon the genuineness of the locks of Bismarck's hair which a barber of the name of Ernest Roehrig is now selling throughout the country, and efforts are being made to stop the flourishing business he has established.

Roehrig was the iron chancellor's barber and during the years he attended his famous employer he was wise enough to collect the locks he clipped. Now he has fashioned them into small curls, affixed a small bronze bust of the empire maker and is offering them at constantly increasing prices to the public. At first the supply was limited to 100 curls, but since the patriotic Germans have been clamoring for the relics of his illustrious patron, Roehrig has discovered that he has an almost endless supply of silver locks, all of which, of course, came from the head of Bismarck.

But some Germans have long memories and the case of Wagner is recalled. The great composer's barber did a thriving business in his patron's clipped locks until Frau Wagner, hearing of it, made it her practice to accompany her husband to the barber shop. When his hair had been clipped to her satisfaction Frau Wagner produced a small bag, into which she gathered all the hair that had been cut.

Noticing the look of chagrin that came over the barber's face, when he saw his profits disappear, Frau Wagner took pity on him and remarked that her butcher had the same colored hair as her husband. The barber lost no time in following up the hint and the sale of "Wagner's locks" went merrily on.

The hair of composes seem to have been in great demand at all times. Verdi was prevailed upon to part with a limited number of his locks for charity. Applications were to be made by letter and hundreds of requests were complied with in the first few days. His admirers noticed, however, that his hair remained as long and thick as ever, despite the extraordinary demand upon it and also that the hair of his attendant, which was the same color, became thinner and thinner. From that time the applications ceased.

CURE FOR THE DREAD MALADY FOUND AT LAST

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

Has a cure at last been found for the deadly infantile paralysis, which annually causes the death of thousands of American babies?

A recent dispatch from Chicago reports the first cure in the history of medicine.

According to the report Agnes Kiley 2½ years old, was cured of the dread malady, after being ill six months. Dr. Roy O. Bernard, who treated the case, announced recently that he had discovered a serum and a method of treatment that is a positive cure in the milder cases.

However, no method of curing more severe attacks of the illness has been found, and thousands of children are sacrificed to the disease each year while scientists experiment in a vain effort to find a positive cure.

In explaining the cure, Dr. Bernard said:

"I have been experimenting with cases of infantile paralysis for many years on the theory that the ailment is caused by a degeneration of the nerve cells resulting in the anterior horns of the gray matter of the brain and nerve cord becoming atrophied."

"The symptoms of the disease develop quickly and often a child goes to sleep and awakens paralyzed. The blood circulation has become inadequate and the cells go to sleep."

"By mechanical treatment of the nerves running to the affected parts the blood supply may be stimulated. By massaging the neck at the base of the skull the nerve action may be increased. At first I gave treatments lasting twenty-two minutes and later reduced the length of the massage. The circulation soon increased and the cells were again restored to normal activity."

"A serum made of a strong blood stimulant was also used with the massage treatment."

"In the case of Agnes Kiley, the paralysis started in the upper arms and gradually worked down to the lower limbs. The treatment was successful and the child is now able to romp about with the other children in the neighborhood of her home."

No cause for the disease was known



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until Dr. Bernard announced the discovery of the nerve degeneration theory.

Although his opinion has not been disputed, physicians have not accepted the theory as yet.

According to local doctors, infantile paralysis commences with a high fever, Delirium and convulsions generally result in one to four days and the child gradually becomes paralyzed. In St. Louis hospitals the little sufferers have been placed in plaster casts so that the limbs may not be deformed. Several children afflicted with the paralysis have recovered but the majority have died.

Tubercular meningitis, by far the more common of the two diseases, is caused by a germ known to physicians, but few cures have been reported.

The germ is communicated by unsanitary conditions and the contraction of the malady may be prevented if parents are careful, physicians say.

Unwashed milk bottles, improper diet and the use of condensed milk are the causes given by physicians for the spread of the disease. Condensed milk does not contain enough butter fat for food and makes the child susceptible to the disease, physicians declare.

The meninges or covering of the spinal cord are three in number and contain a fluid, which permits the movement of the vertebrae without friction with the spinal cord. The

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